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The Yellow Sheets

FEBRUARY - MARCH
1944

I am writing in late middle of January. This winter has been peculiar. Usually our worst weather comes in this month; but this winter, our blizzard came in December, temperatures went down to near zero, and I lost a few plants. Hustled more insulation, and no more ice has formed in sun room.

Before March arrives, a number of early spring wildlings will be available. Due to my numerous falls and the injuries due to them and my fight with our billie goat, my boys and the neighbors object to my trips alone, into the No man's Land West of Grannis. Terrain very rough, farms few and far between; almost every winter Timber Wolves annoy some lone timber cruiser; big Rattlesnakes occasionally killed in there; and trappers report Bob Cats and Cat mounts there. Altogether, my boys prefer that I confine my botanizing to the very civilized woods to the east of Grannis, until they get back from the war and go with me. Hence I cannot offer some of the wildlings I used to find in there.

Expect to have plenty of	
Houstonias, mixed colors	10¢ per doz.
Viola rafinesque, pale blue	5¢ " "
Toothwort, pale lavender	

Partridgeberry (Michelia repens) hardy evergreen ground cover. Needs acid soil; deep shade in the South; berries edible.

Ferns---Christmas; Ebony Spleenwort; Resurrection; Blunt Lobed Woodsia and possibly Lady.

Red Tradescantia, so called from cold weather coloring of the leaves. Color of blooms seems to depend on nature of soil and amount of sun. One of the native Spiderworts.

Green Briar---vine, stickery; black berries; nodules on roots grow quite large and are used for home made pipes.

Five Fingers--- a medicinal vine (Potentilla), with rather attractive foliage and yellow flowers in early summer.

Virginia Creeper--- native vine, good cover for buildings, takes brilliant autumn coloring.

Pale blue Iris cristata may be showing by late March, or maybe not until April, depending on the weather.

A very early native Violet, blooming early in full sun, and poor soil. Lavender blooms. Becomes dormant with hot weather.

White and Confederate Violets may be available in March.

Hardy Rock Garden Plants

Most of my Sedums are hardy.

I have quite a number of hardy Sempervivums, some of them named varieties. They appear to be enduring winter conditions in good shape, but no increase at present.

Hardy Cacti----Opuntia vulgare (Prickly Pear); Opuntia robust much taller and bigger pads; Opuntia vaseyi, hardy in the Colorado desert; O. erinacea (Grizzly Bear) hardy here; O. remossissima, hardy here, good pot plant, dwarf; and Cholla. Neobesseya missouriensis is not an Opuntia, but is hardy in Missouri. This is dormant time for Cacti, and I do not expect growth to start before February. Will try to propagate from all these. Have a few young plants on hand, but not many.

Hardy Sedums---

Sarmentosum, very hardy, flowers yellow, will need trimming to keep it neat, and trimmings good forage for pet goats and rabbits; one sent me labelled Glaucum, much like Album but flowers yellow; one sent me labelled Fosterianum, much like Glaucum but different winter coloring; Album, almost evergreen here, white flowers; a gray green one which may be Altissimum; Acrea Sexangularis, serves some garden purposes as here, both good ground cover for bare spots of poor soil; Maximowiczii, an European species said to be popular there before Hitler, but not common in the U.S.; Spurius, turns dark red in winter; two which are in dispute among botanists who have seen them, some claiming that No. 26 is the pink flowered Stoloneferum and No. 28 the Stoloneferum coccineum, others that both are Spurius hybrids.

Have only a start of Knochaticum; one sent me labelled Persifolia, probably a Spurius hybrid; Sieboldi; Ellencombianum, very early bloomer, orange colored flowers; Reflexum; Crested Purpureum; a deciduous form of Album; Ternatum; one much like Ternatum but blooms later. Middendorffianum and Spectabile alb.

Except where noted all above plants 5¢ each. Postage paid on orders of 50¢ and over. Less than that, please add 5¢. Cash with order.

Tender Plants---

Common Wandering Jew, green leaf 5¢

Talinum (Pink Baby's Breath) 5¢

Peanut Cactus (Chamaecereus sylvestris) 10¢

Frog Leg Cactus (Kalanchoe tubiflora) 10¢

A tender Opuntia, good pot plant 10¢

Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi
Echeveria gibbiflora

10¢

10¢

100 well rooted Sedums, my selection, 12 varieties, labelled to the best of my knowledge, \$2.00 postpaid.

50 well rooted Sedums, my selection, 10 varieties, labelled to the best of my knowledge \$1.00 postpaid.

7 well rooted Sedums, my selection, all different, 25¢.
Write me what you have.

I have quite a lot of healthy, well rooted Sedums whose labels have become lost. So many look like at certain times, or difference lies in bloom, that without labels identification is uncertain. Will sell rooted, single plants, unlabelled at 1¢ each in lots of 25.

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"These things have I spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

Nowhere does the Lord promise material security to his followers, yet we know that He loves His followers much more truly than do the politicians or labor leaders. And by this very insecurity He proves both His love and His wisdom. One of the great purposes of our existence here is to grow upward, and that can occur only by intelligent activity---never by parasitism.

It is one of the established laws of Biology that any circumstances providing shelter and maintenance to an organism without the corresponding exertions of that organism, produces parasitism. We see the effect on children of indulgent parents, who give without requiring; we see the effect on adults of pensions covering actual needs; and we know that to furnish the people with Security From The Cradle To The Grave would ruin most of them. Voting a straight ticket can never take the place of hustling to provide for ourselves and our families.

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Kalanchoe tubiflora began blooming about mid December, on second year plants. Mine grow erect, single stem, first year, may need staking, no side branches. The one which began blooming in mid December is now about through and putting out side shoots from near the top. Another is in full bud. This must be a nuisance in it's native African haunts.

Pachyphytum began blooming about the same time. Previously appeared to be dormant. Blooming season lasted a full four weeks, and now new growth has started. Do not know yet how big it does grow to be.

Billbergia nutans began showing bud the 15th of January. Last year I had two plants of this, an older one in full bud, and a younger one less than a year old. The January 1943 blizzard killed the older one outright and about half the length of the leaves of the younger one. Root and a part of the above ground growth survived and it is the one now in bud.

My Elk Horn (*Hereros dyerii*) was flourishing until our late December '43 blizzard. Did not seem to be frosted, but began to fail and is now dead. This plant is native to tropical Africa, and I am not sure if its death was due to chilling or some fault in my care of it.

One of my mother plants of *Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi* lost all its leaves in this same December blizzard, but seems to be trying to put out more.

My *Andropogon tetraphyllum* reminds me of children of a widower who remarries. It has pouted and sulked and pretended that it did not care whether it lived or died. It lately has started new growth from top to stem. My have been normally dormant, or maybe it's dormancy did not get enough attention.

I see in the Kansas City Star that some of the Hemp mills, built at heavy cost, will not be operated this year, because it is now possible to buy the raw material from other countries, instead of from U.S. farmers.

I am still anxious to trade plants for books I want to read. If you have any surplus, including fact Detective mags. I will send list of books I want, and of those which I have finished and am willing to trade for others. Mystery thrillers are my substitute for drugs when the pain gets too severe.

My Experience With A Milk Goat
Alice Lee Miller

I was tired of paying \$3.00 or more, a month for one quart of milk a day. We needed more but feed was high and cows eat a lot, and a good milk cow was a luxury we could not afford. I had never used goat's milk, but decided to try it. I did not rent a goat, but bought one of Laura D. Cole, of Taggenburg. She had been fresh about six weeks and was giving four quarts daily; now, ten months later, is still giving two quarts daily. She will likely give between five and six quarts daily her next freshening.

Quite the contrary to what I had heard about "tin can eating goats" milk goats are very particular about their food. The feed dish must be clean, not sour nor smelly and the same is true of the drinking water and trough. They eat very little compared to a cow. A bale of alfalfa hay and a bushel of oats will last one goat a month and have all she will eat. They like dry bread and the trimmings from vegetables and should have them, but be sure to wash the potatoes before paring or nanny won't touch the parings. My goat's feed costs \$2.25 a month and see what I am getting--all the milk I want, some butter, a little cheese and very little work. Every family can afford a goat, if they cannot a cow, and the milk is very rich--particularly good for old folks and children.

They require but little stable room, 5x6 being enough for the nanny, 5x8 for her and twin kids. Rough, No. 3 lumber is good enough. A 2½ ft. shelf should be nailed along the long side, at a convenient height for the milker. If the feed pan is always put on this shelf at milking time, she quickly learns to jump up there, and the milking is more easily done. She will also sleep up there.

The objectionable "goaty" smell is a characteristic of the bucks, not of the does.